



Athletic Trainers' Association

Testimony for the Connecticut Athletic Trainer's Association (CATA): Theresa Miyashita, PhD, ATC, LAT

To: Human Services Committee

RE: Support for Raised Bill 5249: An Act Establishing the Connecticut Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Board

Date: March 2, 2016

Good morning Senator Moore, Representative Abercrombie, and members of the Human Services Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony regarding House Bill 5249: An Act Establishing the Connecticut Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Board. The CATA strongly supports the bill, and request that a seat for an Athletic Trainer be added to the composition of this advisory board. I represented the profession on the Youth Sports Concussion Task Force formed by the Children's Committee, and the CATA has been instrumental in advocating for concussion legislation and youth sports safety measures in the state for many years.

Athletic Trainers are licensed healthcare providers who specialize in working with athletes and the physically active. Athletic Trainers are present in our local high schools, universities, and medical practices; providing care to injured athletes, including mild traumatic brain injuries (i.e. concussions). In regards to concussion injuries, Athletic Trainers:

1. Evaluate and manage concussion injuries under the supervision/standing orders of a physician.
2. Work in conjunction with the sports medicine team to ensure a safe return to learn (the classroom) and return to play protocol for the athlete
3. Are actively involved in concussion research in the state of Connecticut

Including an Athletic Trainer on the TBI Advisory Board will provide valuable insight and knowledge regarding Traumatic Brain Injuries, particularly concussions.

Thank you again for your attention to traumatic brain injury. The CATA would be happy to assist the Committee in its efforts to advance the bill.

Sincerely,

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